

The question of background may be a matter of taste, but we think that when reduced to a minimum, as in the plate of the small flycatchers, the result is infinitely better than that attained with the abundance of green leaves seen in the warbler plates, or even the landscapes that are introduced with some species.

In both illustration and taxidermy there may be said to be two possible objects in view, a bird portrait or a picture, and the addition of accessories necessary to improve the picturesque effect is bound to detract from the portrait of the individual bird. A group showing a phase of the life history may well be a picture but for a work of this kind we prefer the portrait. As already said, however, perfection in the arrangement of plates and size of figures is too much to hope for in any work of even quarto size and the handling of the matter in the 'Birds of New York' has been all that could be asked, while the work will stand as a monument to both author and artist.—W. S.

**Swarth's List of Arizona Birds.**<sup>1</sup>—While Arizona has been for many years past a favorite resort for the ornithologist, no one it seems has ventured to compile a complete list of its birds until Mr. Swarth began the work some eleven years ago. The varied topography of the state, our inadequate knowledge of the ranges of many forms and the constantly shifting nomenclature have tended to make the task anything but an easy one, and it is fortunate for ornithology that it was left for one who possessed the perseverance and painstaking accuracy that Mr. Swarth has displayed.

In general style the list follows Grinnell's 'Check-List of California Birds' but is more detailed in the statement of ranges and fuller in the citation of authorities for records quoted. The main list contains 362 species, with a hypothetical list of 24. There are 152 residents, 72 summer visitants, 57 winter visitants, 30 transients and 51 of casual occurrence.

A brief discussion of the several life zones and their characteristic birds with an original faunal map follows the list, and a bibliography of 313 titles and an index complete the work. The first entry in the bibliography is Gambel's paper of 1843, and Woodhouse's account of Sitgreaves' expedition, 1853, is the only other contribution prior to the Pacific railroad reports, while up to 1880 there had appeared only 43 papers bearing upon Arizona birds, so that the literature is for the most part comparatively recent.

Mr. Swarth follows the order and, in the main, the nomenclature of the A. O. U. Check-List departing only in the recognition of certain forms not accepted by the latter; in the rejection of the Western Sparrow Hawk as a distinct race from the eastern bird; and in differences in the rank of several

<sup>1</sup> A Distributional List of the Birds of Arizona. Cooper Ornithological Club. Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 10. Contribution from the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California. Hollywood, California. Published by the Club. May 25, 1914. 8vo, pp. 1-133, with colored zonal map.

forms, in which cases he prefers to follow the works of Mr. Ridgway and other specialists.

Swarth's list is a very acceptable piece of work and one of which he may well feel proud, while students of the ornithology of the southwestern portion of our country will find it a reliable guide to the ornithology of one of the most interesting states, zoologically speaking, of the entire Union.— W. S.

**Aiken and Warren on the Birds of El Paso County, Colorado.**<sup>1</sup>—

This is an admirably prepared annotated list of 276 species, with an introductory discussion of topography, life zones, analysis of the bird fauna, workers in the region and a bibliography. The forty-five half-tones are from photographs from nature, all but two by Mr. Warren, and furnish good illustrations of many birds as well as nests and eggs.

We learn from the introduction that Dr. J. A. Allen was the first ornithologist to visit El Paso County, his report published in 1872 being the first list of Colorado birds. Mr. Aiken the senior author of the list came to Colorado Springs in 1871 and his collection begun soon after his arrival, is now in Colorado College. Mr. Warren's residence dates from 1881.

With ample material and long experience in the region of which they treat, the authors were well fitted to turn out an authoritative work and have succeeded admirably.

Why a paper of this sort should be published in two parts both of which were printed and distributed apparently at the same time, and why both parts are numbered, "13" in one series and "74" and "75-76" in another, are problems that only those in charge of the Colorado College publications can explain, while to others they will prove a source of annoyance and complication.— W. S.

**Mathews' Birds of Australia.**<sup>2</sup>— With part 6 the third volume of this great work is brought to a close completing the Herons and Bitterns. The high standard of the previous volumes is fully maintained and so thoroughly has the author covered the subject of nomenclature that we find but one new name dating from this part, i. e. *Hemigarzetta* (p. 448) a new generic term for *Herodias eulophotes* Swinhoe.— W. S.

**Bannerman on the Ornithology of the Canary Islands.**<sup>3</sup>— In this admirable paper Mr. David A. Bannerman gives us a most interesting account of his visit to this island group and a careful discussion of the birds

<sup>1</sup> The Birds of El Paso County, Colorado. By Charles E. H. Aiken and Edward R. Warren. Colorado College Publication Science Series, Vol. XII, No. 13. Part I (pp. 455-496) published May, 1914. Part II (pp. 497-603) June-September 1914. Price respectively 40 cts. and 75 cts.

<sup>2</sup> The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. III, Pt. 6. June 25, 1914.

<sup>3</sup> An Ornithological Expedition to the Eastern Canary Islands. Parts I. and II. The Ibis. January and April, 1914.